

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, before line 1, replace the heading as follows:

--~~DESCRIPTION~~ BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.

Before the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 15, insert the following heading:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 34, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--These objects are achieved in accordance with the invention with the guard mechanism ~~according to appended independent claim 1~~ and with the disposable automatic safety syringe ~~according to appended independent claim 12~~ disclosed herein--.

Delete the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 4, as follows:

--~~Advantageous embodiments of the invention are apparent from the dependent claims.~~--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The abutment member for the spring is suitable to be mounted at the head of the syringe body and can act as a support for [[a]] an injection needle.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 29, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The sleeve is mounted so that it can slide over the spring, abutment member, and the syringe body, to pass from a retracted position of use of the syringe to a forward position of safety, wherein it covers the needle.--

Before the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 5, insert the following heading:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

Before the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 7, insert the following heading:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 35, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The injection needle 2 is mounted on or built-in ~~[[in]]~~ to a cylindrical or frusto-conical needle-carrier 20, hollow on the inside, having an axial chamber 23 able to receive the tang ~~[[115]]~~ of the head 115 of the syringe body. The needle-carrier 20 can have, at its free end, a collar 21 with two tongues 22 protruding radially in diametrically opposite positions. The tongues 22 can be replaced by an outer thread. A needle cap 24 engages with the needle-carrier 20 to cover the needle 2.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In this manner, when the abutment member 8 is applied to the head of the syringe body, the tang ~~[[115]]~~ of the syringe

body is disposed axially inside the tang 82 of the abutment member, leaving an annular space between the outer surface of the tang [[115]] of the syringe body and the inner surface of the tang 82 of the needle-carrier member, so as to give rise to a so-called Luer cone on the head of the syringe body to receive the needle-carrier 20 of the injection needle 2. In this case, the abutment member 8 acts as a supporting member for the needle 2.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--As shown also in Figure 2, according to the invention, the set of components 200 comprises a safety device for the syringe, denoted by reference numeral 5 and taking the form of a substantially cylindrical sleeve, hollow on the inside, having an axial chamber 54 open at the front and rear. The sleeve 5 has a front part 51 with a smaller diameter ending in an annular collar 52 that protrudes radially inward. The inside diameter of the body 50 of the sleeve body is slightly greater than the outside diameter of the body 80 of the abutment member 8, so that the sleeve 5 can slide axially on the body 80 of the abutment member 8, when the abutment member 8 is applied to the head of the syringe body 1.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 31, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Lastly, the set of components 200 comprises the spiral spring 7, designed to be housed in the front part [[52]]

51 of the sleeve body. In fact the outside diameter of the spring  
7 is slightly smaller than the inside diameter of the front part  
51 of the sleeve body 5.--